



## Karen Curesky McCusker

September 22, 2021

Karen Curesky McCusker, 57, passed away on September 22, 2021 after a long battle with breast cancer.

Karen is survived by a family that loves and misses her very deeply — her husband, high-school sweetheart, and best friend Kevin McCusker, her two children Camden and Carolyn, her parents Joseph and Carol Curesky, and her siblings and their spouses: Joe and Fran Curesky, Cathy and Dan Gregory, Ed and Hannah Curesky, and her sister Kristin Curesky Quarles and her fiancé Doug Ripley. Karen's family also includes numerous nieces and nephews and many others who have come to call her family.

Karen was born and raised in Danbury, CT in the house her parents built by hand. Joining Girl Scouts kindled her love for adventure and taught her songs she would sing to her children when she got older. She went on to become a Scout Leader in early adulthood. She loved travelling to Maine as a kid in the summers, where she built a reputation for herself on Mousam Lake as “the girl with the blue boat” who won waterskiing competitions. Her soulmate Kevin remembers meeting her at a party when they were 17, where he was immediately smitten by her green eyes.

Karen graduated from Immaculate High School in Danbury CT, received her BA from Univ. of New Hampshire, her JD from Georgetown Univ. Law Center,

and her MSFS from Georgetown Univ. School of Foreign Service. She proudly and joyfully remembered studying foreign affairs under Madeleine Albright.

At UNH she was a first-seat rower on the crew team and got to compete in the Head of the Charles. During and after her studies, Karen fed her love of adventure by going to the Soviet Union and Greece. Later in life she would bring her family on adventures to the White Mountains, Costa Rica, Mount Desert Island in Maine, Hawaii, and many more places.

Karen followed her passions to work as a business attorney at major law firms in Boston and Hartford before joining UTC Pratt & Whitney as in-house counsel. The highlight of her career was her 8-year stint as Chief Legal Officer of the joint venture, IAE International Aero Engines, Inc., where she worked with customers from all over the world. She also made time for pro bono work for, among others, the Department of Child and Family Services.

Karen cherished the opportunity to follow the soccer career of her son and the musical career of her daughter. She enjoyed cooking and baking for her kids and their friends and especially enjoyed hosting creative themed events. In her retirement, she discovered a talent and love for tutoring SAT students (she also learned that business operations weren't her forte). She loved spending time with her family at their cottage on the same lake she grew up visiting.

Her friends and family remember Karen for her brilliant mind and the love, wisdom, and joy she brought into their lives. From elaborate birthday parties to an understanding ear in times of hardship, Karen made each of her loved ones feel seen, loved, and special.

In lieu of flowers, Karen requested donations to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Inc., the Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society, Inc., or the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, Inc.

Calling hours will be at Molloy Funeral Home in West Hartford, CT on Thursday 9/30 from 5pm-8pm. The funeral will be at St. Patrick St. Anthony Church in Hartford, CT on Friday 10/1 at 10am. Directions and link to stream will be available at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

SEP 30. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Funeral Service

OCT 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Patrick St. Anthony Church  
285 Church Street  
Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall



“ *Molloy Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Karen Curesky McCusker*



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**Molloy Funeral Home** - September 26, 2021 at 07:39 PM

DD

“ *Diane Meader Denton purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.*



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**Diane Meader Denton** - September 29, 2021 at 05:47 PM

RK

“ *Karen was so much more than a GC at IAE. She was a trusted friend, colleague and confidant. The guidance she provided the whole leadership team was invaluable. Karen had the ability to develop creative solutions to difficult problems, and did not hesitate to help keep us all aligned (and in line) with humor and grace. Years later Karen tutored our youngest daughter, Kate, for the ACT and SAT tests. I hope Karen knew how much Kate liked and valued her help.  
Condolences to her family.*

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**Robert Keady** - September 29, 2021 at 09:52 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.*



September 29, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.*



September 28, 2021 at 08:38 PM



“ *Karen will be remembered by all of us who were lucky enough to work with her at IAE with great affection. She was smart, funny and most importantly a person of huge integrity who was a credit to her profession and to her family. Many of her friends here in the UK would like to send our very best wishes to her family at this difficult time*

*Mark King  
(President IAE, 2003-2007)*

**Mark King** - September 27, 2021 at 06:47 PM



“ *Anh Hang purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.*



**Anh Hang** - September 27, 2021 at 02:45 PM

AD

“ A stone for camp. Love. Ray and Deb purchased the Garden Accent - "Perhaps the stars..." for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.



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**A stone for camp. Love. Ray and Deb** - September 27, 2021 at 11:50 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.



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September 27, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.



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September 27, 2021 at 10:58 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.



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September 27, 2021 at 10:13 AM

LA

“ Dear Camden,  
I was so sorry to read that your mother had passed away. I know she battled through her cancer for a very long while and was incredibly strong. I had one very important conversation with her and what I remember the most was how much she loved you and your sister. She will be carried in your heart forever. My heart breaks for you and your family. You are in my prayers.  
Warmly,  
Lisa Aldridge

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**Lisa Aldridge** - September 27, 2021 at 05:25 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.



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September 26, 2021 at 07:32 PM

JZ

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family and close friends of Karen. I never met Karen (my cousin Carol's daughter) but after reading her online obituary her family must be so proud of the many accomplishments she achieved during her short life on earth. She touched the hearts of many by sharing herself with love doing God's work on earth.  
Rest In Peace, Karen, in the arms of our loving Lord in Heaven.  
Jeannie (Dobos) Zarillo 🌹

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**Jeannie Zarillo** - September 26, 2021 at 11:00 AM



“ Karen’s brilliant mind and kind heart made her an awesome lawyer, very helpful colleague and soon a dear friend... her love for her family and pride in her kids shown even in text messages that we exchanged recently. May her soul rest In peace and family stay blessed 🙏

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**Yogesh Farswani** - September 26, 2021 at 10:16 AM

MJ

“ Karen was a caring friend, a terrific lawyer and above all a woman who cherished her family. And she showed her toughness in fighting her cancer for more than 10 years. I am better for having known her, and the world is a better place for having her in it.

*Rest in peace.  
Love MEJ*

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**Mary Ellen Jones** - September 26, 2021 at 09:32 AM

SS

“ I am saddened that I never had the opportunity to know Karen beyond very brief meetings at Ellen and Marc's gatherings. Clearly Karen was a brilliant star and will continue to shine on generations to come. May she rest in peace, and may her memory ever be a blessing to her cherished family.  
God bless the McCusker family  
With love, Sister Marie Julie Saegaert

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**Sister Marie Julie Saegaert** - September 25, 2021 at 08:22 PM

LF

“ *Love, Joe, Cathy, Ed, Kristin & families purchased the Sacred Garden Spray for the family of Karen Curesky McCusker.*



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**Love, Joe, Cathy, Ed, Kristin & families** - September 24, 2021  
at 04:12 PM